approached Government to exploit certain proven oilfields of the country;

(b) if so, the details of their offers;

(c) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has also suggested to open Bombay offshore and Gulf of Cambay to international companies or to joint ventures between India and international companies; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Some foreign companies have shown interest in participating in the development of discovered oil fields in India. They have said they would be willing to consider making a specific offer once they know the fields to be developed and have examined the data of the fields.

(c) No such specific proposal has been received by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(d) Does not arise.

GAIL's objection to International Arbitration

1832. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL is objecting to International Arbitration included in the contract with the contractor of the HBJ pipeline; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that GAIL has applied to the Delhi High Court to stop reference of dispute to solve the difference by the contractually agreed procedure?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) According to GAIL as per the contract executed, all disputes and arbitration proceedings are to be governed by Indian Laws. GAIL had accordingly approached Delhi High Court under whose jurisdiction all matters/disputes arising out of the said contract lie.

Extension of broad gauge line upto Lumding

1883. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided in principle to extend the broad gauge line upto Lumding;

(b) if so, whether any fund allocation has been made in the Eighth Five Year Plan; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present position of the much demanded broad gauge extension upto Dibrugarh in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allocation for 1992-93 for conversion of New Guwahati-Lumding gauge conversion project is Rs. 47.27 crores.

(c) Extension of broad gauge upto Dibrugarh has been included in the Action Plan and is likely to be taken up during the VIII Five Year Plan.

One contractor at one station

1884. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RALWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2761 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 1990 and state:

(a) what are the details of stations/platforms (with names) vacated by A. H. Wheeler and Company in fav-

our of educated unemployed after the decision 'one book stall contractor at one station'; and

(b) the details of stations with names where book stalls have been allotted to A. S. Wheeler and Company during the last three years in each Zonal Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Norms/Rules for book stall contractors

1885. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms/rules fixed by Government for the book stall, contractors to judge their services working as satisfactory; and

(b) what are the details of the instructions/directions issued by Government from time to time in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Book-stall contractors are governed by the provisions of Agreement executed by them with the Railways. If all the agreemental provisions are complied with, the performance of the book-stall contractor is considered satisfactory. The provisions include that no obscene or objectionable literature are displayed or sold, the book-stall remains open during the notified timings, no overcharging, the staff should wear proper uniform and badges, etc.

Loco Running Staff

1886. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has, by an order, made it obligatory on the part of Loco Running Staff to perform unlimited hours of work against the norms of hours of Employment Regulations;

(b) whether any representations have been received from All India Loco Running Staff Association, Palghat division, Olavakkot Southern Railway protesting against such orders;

(c) whether that order would not affect the efficiency of the running staff and cause security and safety hazards in respect of trains;

(d) whether Government are considering restricting the hours of work of Loco Running Staff to 10 hours in the larger interests of safety of railways and its employees and passengers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) On the basis of guidelines given by Central Administrative Tribunal, Ernakulam, in a case filed by some Running Staff of Palghat & Trivandrum Divisions of Southern Railway, an order dated 13-4-92 in supersession of all previous orders has been issued laying down the normal duty at a stretch of Running Staff which does not permit unlimited duty hours.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Government is not considering any change in the order dated 13-4-92 and it does not affect safety and security of the Railways, its employees and passengers.

Extension of Broad gauge line between Villivakkam and Anna Nagar

1887. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the work proposed to be taken up during the current year in the